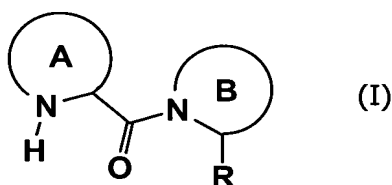


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (original): A compound represented by formula (I):

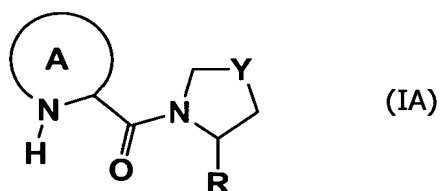


wherein ring A represents a nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring which may have a substituent(s);

ring B represents 5-membered heterocyclic ring which may have a substituent(s)  
and

R represents a hydrogen atom or cyano, or a salt thereof.

2. (original): The compound according to claim 1, which is represented by formula (IA):

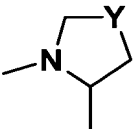


wherein Y represents -CH<sub>2</sub>-, an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom, or a sulfur atom which may be oxidized;

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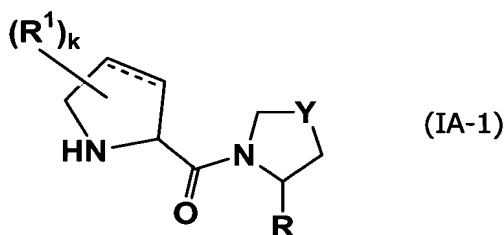
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the ring represented by  may be substituted and the other symbols have

the same meanings as defined in claim 1, or a salt thereof.

3. (currently amended): The compound according to claim 1, which is represented by formula (IA-1):



wherein k's of R<sup>1</sup> each independently, represents:

- (1) a C1-8 carbon chain which may be substituted by 1-5 of R<sup>2</sup>,
- (2) a carbocyclic ring which may be substituted by 1-5 of R<sup>3</sup>,
- (3) a heterocyclic ring which may be substituted by 1-5 of R<sup>3</sup>, wherein a carbon atom of the heterocyclic ring binds to ring A, or
- (4) two R<sup>1</sup>'s, taken together with abutting carbon atoms or the same carbon atom of ring A, form a carbocyclic ring or a heterocyclic ring, wherein the ring may be substituted by 1-5 of R<sup>3</sup>;

R<sup>2</sup> represents halogen, nitro, cyano, oxo, OR<sup>10</sup>, NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, SR<sup>10</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>13</sup>, COOR<sup>10</sup>, CONR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, COR<sup>13</sup>, =N-OR<sup>10</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, OCOR<sup>13</sup>, OSO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>13</sup>, NR<sup>14</sup>CONR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, NR<sup>14</sup>COOR<sup>10</sup>, OCOOR<sup>10</sup>, OCONR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>OR<sup>10</sup>, OSO<sub>2</sub>OR<sup>10</sup>, SOR<sup>13</sup>, a carbocyclic ring which may be substituted by 1-5 of R<sup>3</sup>, or a heterocyclic ring which may be substituted by 1-5 of R<sup>3</sup>;

R<sup>3</sup> represents a C1-8 carbon chain which may be substituted with 1 to 5 groups selected from halogen, nitro, cyano, oxo, OR<sup>10</sup>, NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, SR<sup>10</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>13</sup>, COOR<sup>10</sup>, CONR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, COR<sup>13</sup>, =N-OR<sup>10</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, OCOR<sup>13</sup>, OSO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>13</sup>, NR<sup>14</sup>CONR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>, NR<sup>14</sup>COOR<sup>10</sup>, OCOOR<sup>10</sup>,

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$\text{OCONR}^{11}\text{R}^{12}$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{OR}^{10}$ ,  $\text{OSO}_2\text{OR}^{10}$ ,  $\text{SOR}^{13}$ , a carbocyclic ring which may have a substituent(s) or a heterocyclic ring which may have a substituent(s); or halogen, nitro, cyano, oxo,  $\text{OR}^{10}$ ,  $\text{NR}^{11}\text{R}^{12}$ ,  $\text{SR}^{10}$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{R}^{13}$ ,  $\text{COOR}^{10}$ ,  $\text{CONR}^{11}\text{R}^{12}$ ,  $\text{COR}^{13}$ ,  $=\text{N}-\text{OR}^{10}$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^{11}\text{R}^{12}$ ,  $\text{OCOR}^{13}$ ,  $\text{OSO}_2\text{R}^{13}$ ,  $\text{CONR}^{11}\text{R}^{12}$ ,  $\text{CONR}^{11}\text{COR}^{13}$ ,  $\text{CONR}^{11}\text{SO}_2\text{R}^{13}$ ,  $\text{NR}^{14}\text{CONR}^{11}\text{R}^{12}$ ,  $\text{NR}^{14}\text{COOR}^{10}$ ,  $\text{OCOOR}^{10}$ ,  $\text{OCONR}^{11}\text{R}^{12}$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{OR}^{10}$ ,  $\text{OSO}_2\text{OR}^{10}$ ,  $\text{SOR}^{13}$ , a carbocyclic ring which may have a substituent(s) or a heterocyclic ring which may have a substituent(s);

$\text{R}^{10}$  represents:

- (1) a hydrogen atom,
- (2) a C1-8 carbon chain which may have a substituent(s),
- (3) a carbocyclic ring which may have a substituent(s), or
- (4) a heterocyclic ring which may have a substituent(s);



$\text{R}^{11}$ ,  $\text{R}^{12}$ , and  $\text{R}^{14}$  each independently represents:

- (1) a hydrogen atom,
- (2) a C1-8 carbon chain which may have a substituent(s),
- (3) a carbocyclic ring which may have a substituent(s),
- (4) a heterocyclic ring which may have a substituent(s),
- (5)  $\text{COR}^{13}$ , or
- (6)  $\text{SO}_2\text{R}^{13}$ ;

$\text{R}^{13}$  represents:

- (1) a C1-8 carbon chain which may have a substituent(s),
- (2) a carbocyclic ring which may have a substituent(s), or
- (3) a heterocyclic ring which may have a substituent(s);

k represents 0 or an integer of 1 to 5;

 represents a single or double bond; wherein when  is a single bond, k represents an integer of 1 to 5;

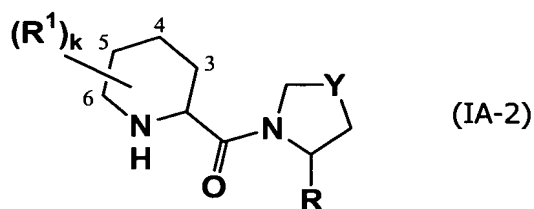
the other symbols have the same meanings as defined in ~~claims 1 and 2~~ claim 2, or a salt thereof.

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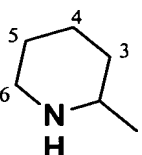
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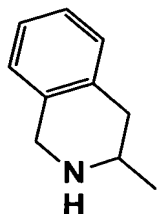
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4. (currently amended): The compound according to claim 1, which is represented by formula (IA-2):



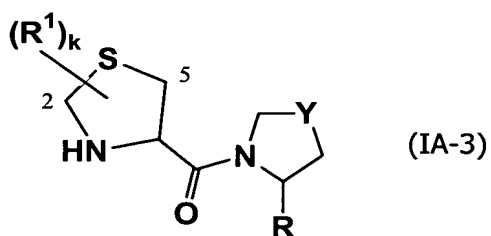
wherein all symbols have same meanings as defined in ~~claims 1 and 2~~ claim 2,

wherein a ring represented by , taken together with two R<sup>1</sup>'s, does not form



, or a salt thereof.

5. (currently amended): The compound according to claim 1, which is represented by formula (IA-3):



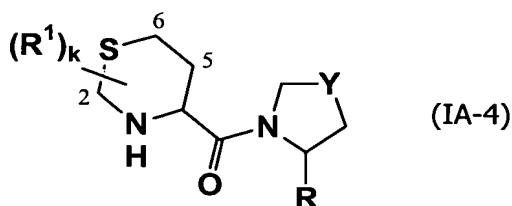
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wherein all symbols have the same meanings as defined in ~~claims 1 and~~ claim 2, or a salt thereof.

6. (currently amended): The compound according to claim ~~1~~ 2, which is represented by formula (IA-4):



wherein all symbols have the same meanings as defined in claim 2; or a salt thereof.

7. (currently amended): A dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor which comprises the compound represented by formula (I) described in ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1 or a salt thereof as an active ingredient.

8. (original): The inhibitor according to claim 7, which is an agent for prevention and/or treatment of dipeptidyl peptidase IV mediated diseases.

9. (original): The inhibitor according to claim 8, wherein the dipeptidyl peptidase IV mediated disease is diabetes mellitus, obesity, autoimmune disease, cancer metastasis, HIV infection, dermatosis or prostatic hypertrophy.

10. (currently amended): A dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor which comprises the compound represented by formula (I) described in claim 1, or a salt thereof, and one or at least two agents selected from a PPAR agonist, a sulfonyl urea system hypoglycaemic agent, an insulin sensitizer, an  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitor and an acute effect type insulin secretagogue.

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11. (currently amended): A method of inhibiting a dipeptidyl peptidase IV which comprises administering to a mammal an effective amount of the compound represented by formula (I) described in claim 1 or a salt thereof.

12. (cancelled)

13. (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition which comprises the compound described in claim 1 or a salt thereof, and a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier.

14. (original): A prodrug of the compound according to claim 1.